

## **Child Welfare Partners Committee**

### **Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

11:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE Side 2

**Members in attendance:** Doug Johnson, Wendy Rickman, Mindy Norwood, Chris Secrist, Julie Allison

**By phone:** Cheryl Goodwin, Anne Gruenewald, Jeff Hackett, Evan Klenk, Carol Gutchewsky, Brian Fox, and Gary Lippe

**Members not in attendance:** Janice Lane, Jan Clausen

**Observers in attendance:** Kristie Oliver, Executive Director of Coalition for Children and Family Services in Iowa

#### **Purpose of the Meeting:**

The purpose of the meeting was to provide workgroup updates and discuss terms of membership beginning July 1, 2010.

#### **Summary of Meeting:**

The membership guidelines were reviewed to begin discussions around which members will be appointed to which terms; which current Coalition member will be eliminated; and the addition of a Non-Coalition member agency. There will be further discussion between now and the next meeting with final decisions made at that time.

To date, only one application has been received for a Non-Coalition member agency; however, due to the fact that this agency does not provide contracted child welfare services; the application is denied. The deadline to apply is May 30, 2010.

The committee discussed a training proposal on considerations regarding all of the different training committees. The future vision of this training proposal is to promote good cross promotional activities, support a structure that maximizes resources while minimizing the effort it takes to communicate across the public/private continuum, and demand a focus on the spread of strategies that work to be driven across the state as well as throughout the entire system. The proposal includes the following:

- Eliminate the Joint training committee, DHS training task team, as well as the current CFSR specific task team.
- Keep the DHS training committee, the Provider Training Committee, and the CWPC training committee with all three working together.
- Mindy, Margie, and Kristie (or designee) will be involved in all three in order to cross serve so that we have the DHS and Provider oversight and good cross representation.

The same protocol is now in place for attendance with both DHS and provider trainings, meaning that DHS can attend the provider courses as long as they do not bump child welfare contracted providers and providers can attend DHS courses as long as they do not bump DHS staff. The same is true for remedial service providers who wish to attend the child welfare provider courses. In doing this, we are aligning membership, committees, and access to training. This committee agreed that combining the training committees was a good idea but would like to see further discussion on this by reviewing the training proposal. The current proposal will be revised to include current committees and membership for review and comment at the next meeting.

The Journey of Partnership will soon include new entries between a front line DHS worker and FSRP worker regarding safe case closure. This committee was encouraged to tell others about the Journey of Partnership blog address as it is one of the best ways to communicate the success of this committee.

**Workgroup Updates:** (The following updates were provided by each of the co-chairs in attendance)

*Understanding Roles Across Contracts* – Wendy/Janice – The “Resource Family Tip Sheet on Workers and their Roles” that now includes Group Care, Shelter Care, and Child Welfare Emergency Services is final.

*Performance Based Contracting* – Evan/Anne – This workgroup has not had any additional conversations and/or meetings since the discussion with CWLA. The summer action plan that was developed during the April 21-22 meeting with CWLA was reviewed to determine status and the need for any extensions of timeframes. There was discussion around identifying the action steps for the dashboard template and determine the best use for it. Performance measures are shared across all contractors so one way to use this dashboard it so identify ways to help one another improve in areas one might be lacking in. In the northern service area, there are regular and transparent conversations held at the advisory meetings as well as joint trainings around these topics. The question came up on how centralized intake will potentially impact practice as well as performance based on standardization. It was agreed that this would impact areas differently as well as the current changes to the service area structure. We need to determine how to go about putting together the action steps to get us to the dashboard. There are models out there from other states (Florida? Ohio? Illinois?) so we need to find and review for any guidance on developing our own.

*Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES)* – Cheryl/Gary – The report is due to legislature by December 15th, 2010.

*Spring 2010 Summit* – Carol/Chris – As of this date, four of the five new service areas have provided their attendance roster for the June Summit. Doug and Wendy will be providing opening and closing statements as well as floating in and out of the breakout sessions throughout the day. Once the breakout sessions are completed, everyone will come back to the large group and sit with their current service delivery area to begin reflecting on their individual learning from the day. It was agreed that much of the work will need to be done locally after returning to the respective service areas.

*Family Interaction* – Chris/Mindy – The monthly teleconference calls continue to occur with the practice champions. There has been a lot of good discussion lately and the attendance to these calls is increasing. The focus over the past two months is in determining the practice champions and where they fit now with the reconfiguration of the service areas as well as revising the current forms. This workgroup requested the July date for facilitating the supervisory seminar on Family Interaction to roll out the new forms, revisit the practice bulletin, and identify some key discussion points. This was approved and it was agreed that we would also broaden the attendance beyond just DHS and Provider supervisors for this particular seminar. Chris reported that the curriculum has not yet changed to reflect group care but is currently in process.

**Next steps:**

1. The “journey of partnership” will be an ongoing agenda item for this committee. The point of contact will be the CWPC and anyone who wishes to contribute to the journey by adding comments or sharing a story, should submit their request to Mindy. The requests will then be provided to the CWPC for a decision. Amy Juhnke has agreed to continue in her role in this process.
2. Doug will commission a call with the Coalition provider agencies to determine which current member will step down and determine terms. This information will be provided to Mindy for the next meeting.

3. Wendy will review membership guidelines and discuss membership with the SAMs during their regularly scheduled call.
4. Wendy will draft the training proposal to include the current training committees with the current identified members as well as who commissioned each of them. This committee will then review to make recommendations to move forward with the proposal.
5. Mindy will send out the final version of the “Resource Family Tip Sheet” as well as the summer action plan with new timeframes to this committee for review and/or comments.
6. Kristie will review and condense the document she received on performance based contracts in child welfare services.
7. Doug will research the state of Wisconsin relative to moving toward performance based contracting.
8. Wendy and Mindy will begin to plan out the potential action steps toward the dashboard and get out to this committee for review in the next couple weeks.
9. Wendy will provide the committee with the information she presents on in Child Welfare 101 and will also provide the committee with her presentation to Council. There was a request to have this presentation in video format to use as a tool for the process.
10. Julie and Jim Chesnik will connect with Gary and Cheryl to discuss Child Welfare Emergency Services. Wendy will connect with George and Jerry as co-chairs of the Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC).
11. Carol will provide Mindy the final copy of the child welfare partnership survey responses to have copies made to provide at the Summit.
12. Chris will connect with Amy Juhnke to provide the names of front line DHS and provider staff to interview for Journey of Partnership entries for Family Interaction.
13. Evan will have a conversation with the SAMs to determine if we should reschedule the FSRP All Contractor meeting sometime in July or if another date works best. The meeting was originally scheduled in May with the focus around practice improvement regarding safe case closure but was cancelled.

The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 from 11:00 – 1:00 p.m.

### **Our Vision:**

The combined experience and perspective of public and private agencies provide the best opportunity to reach our mutual goals: child safety, permanency and well-being for Iowa’s children and families. Collaboration and shared accountability will keep the focus on child welfare outcomes.